

Message Text

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46

ACTION VOE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1538

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FOR VO AND EA/PHIL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, RP

SUBJ: PROPOSED IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN MEDICAL PERSONNEL

1. DAILY EXPRESS CARRIED ARTICLE MARCH 19 STATING THAT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD DRAFTED NEW RULES WHICH WOULD VIRTUALLY BAR FOREIGN DOCTORS AND NURSES FROM ENTRY UNDER H-1 VISA. NEW PREREQUISITE TO APPROVAL H PETITIONS WILL BE STATE LICENSE OR TEMPORARY LICENSE ISSUED TO APPLICANT. ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THIS REQUIREMENT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET BECAUSE (1) STATE BOARD EXAMINATIONS GIVEN ONLY WITHIN U.S.; (2) TEMPORARY LICENSURE OF DOCTORS DONE NOWHERE IN U.S.; AND (3) TEMPORARY LICENSING OF NURSES, PRESENTLY DONE BY ABOUT FIVE U. S. STATES, IS EXPECTED TO STOP.

2. MARCH 21 ISSUE LOCAL DAILY TIMES JOURNAL CARRIES ARTICLE IN WHICH DR. PACIFICO E. MARCOS, PHILIPPINE MEDICARE CHAIRMAN, QUOTED AS SAYING THAT U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TO BAN FOREIGN DOCTORS AND NURSES FROM PRACTICING IN U.S. ARTICLE THEN CLAIMS THAT EXCHANGE VISITORS PROGRAM COVERING DOCTORS AND NURSES MAY BE PHASED OUT. DR. MARCOS REPORTEDLY WELCOMED DEVELOPMENT AS MEANS OF KEEPING FILIPINO DOCTORS AND NURSES AT HOME TO SERVE IN MEDICALLY INDIGENT AREAS BUT NOTED THAT LOSS OF EXCHANGE PROGRAM WOULD DENY FILIPINO DOCTORS AND NURSES OPPORTUNITY FOR

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ADVANCED TRAINING ABROAD.

3. OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, INS MANILA HAS CABLED CENTRAL OFFICE INS FOR DETAILS ON PROPOSED CHANGES BUT HAS NOT RECEIVED REPLY. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT PROPOSED RULE CHANGE RELATES TO H-PETITION PREREQUISITES ONLY AND THAT QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT BAN UNQUOTE IS MISNOMER. EMBASSY ALSO ASSUMES THAT EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAMS REMAIN UNTOUCHED BY PROPOSED RULE CHANGE. IN VIEW LEVEL OF LOCAL INTEREST EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IMMEDIATE DETAILS ON PROPOSED CHANGE IN H-PETITION PROCESSING AND SOME IDEA OF WHEN IT LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT.
SULLIVAN

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